

ORDER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

3900. 45

1/13/87

SUBJ: SAFETY ALERT - POSSIBLE SHOCK HAZARD

1. PURPOSE. This order directs attention to the possible shock hazard that exists at all long range radar sites with a remote control interface unit (RCIU)(FA 10050).

2. DISTRIBUTION. This order is distributed to selected offices and services within Washington headquarters, regional Airway Facilities divisions, FAA Technical Center, the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, and Airway Facilities field offices having the following facilities/equipment: RCIU.

3. ACTION. This document shall be retained on site and all site personnel are directed to place the LOCAL/REMOTE switch on the RCIU in the LOCAL (or maintenance) position prior to performing any maintenance on any equipment being controlled by the RCIU.

NOTE: When switched to LOCAL, site configuration changes may occur, particularly on the ATCBI-3 and CD, when control reverts back to individual control panel settings.

4. BACKGROUND. The RCIU is designed to control site equipment in response to commands from the Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) or an onsite terminal, and automatically when it detects a limited number of equipment failures. All responses, unless inhibited by the proper positioning of the LOCAL/REMOTE switch, are executed immediately with no warning to the onsite maintenance personnel. Further, two actions by the RCIU, in particular, are directed at both online and offline equipment, namely, the high voltage and coolant pump reset functions of an ARSR-1 radar, even though they may be in the "no control" condition. Site personnel performing maintenance on any RCIU controlled equipment with the aforementioned switch in the REMOTE (or operational) position are exposed to an electrical shock hazard.

for E M Kelly
Thomas J. O'Brien
Acting Director, Program Engineering
and Maintenance Service

Distribution: Selected Airway Facilities Field and Regional
Offices; ZAF-605

Initiated By: APM-165

